

# '86

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# '87

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Hello Classmates,

Welcome to the Dark Ages of 2023! I hope all of you are enjoying a healthy, happy and prosperous 2023. As I start the twelfth year as your scribe, it occurs that this column struggles to inspire broad readership or regular contributions of content. This likely has much to do with the competition between the immediacy, democracy and richness of social media options relative to the time-late and limited content options of *Shipmate's* print format. So, I've decided to conduct an experiment to make our column more interesting by adding things here you won't see on social media. This experiment is a collaboration with **Devon Marsh**, an award-winning poet, Seriously. Boat School to poet. It happened. And he's good! While continuing to focus on your traditional contributions as the primary content for our column, I'm also inviting you to read Devon's and my invitation to share your own writings about life. Anything which strikes a deeper chord within you will surely find a kindred spirit in a classmate.

And now a note from the Poet Laureate of the Class of 1987, Devon Marsh, with my tremendous thanks.

✉ "Hello, classmates. I enjoy seeing updates on peoples' careers and life events in our class column. I've also noticed that sometimes our column doesn't contain much news. Maybe there is a way we can reinvigorate it.

Over the last few years, I have published several poems about the types of events we read about here: births, relationships, travel, loss. You might also write on these topics whether for publication or personal growth and exploration. I know some of you have had very interesting, sometimes life-changing experiences, from mountain biking the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to hiking the Camino de Santiago, to building houses and installing wells in less-developed countries. And by this age, every one of us has experienced major life events. If you've written about your experiences in short essays or poems, I'd like to read them. Others probably would as well.

Recently an editor surprised me by nominating one of my poems drawn from a life event—a failed marriage, in this case—for a Best of the Net award. Reprinted below, it first appeared in the Winter 2021 issue of *Orange Blossom Review*. I offer it here to share a bit of news, and to encourage others of you who write poetry and memoir and travelogue to send some of your writing to Shipmate.

### Like Ones We Took

A walk around the pond felt right at the outset.  
 Five kinds of dragonflies alit, hovering, coupling,  
 all challenging subjects for a photograph except  
 a blue one, struggling, ensnared by a filament  
 of silk.

I almost turned to say something,  
 checked myself,  
 then freed him from the web.  
 He flew before I could  
 loose a clinging strand from his wing,  
 and spiraled  
 like a sliver of sky to the water's dark,  
 still surface.  
 Thunder announced rain.  
 Large drops made the pond  
 briefly a sheet of discrete circles,  
 nothing in common,  
 then chaos and tumult. Walking home,  
 I thought about  
 ways I might have saved a creature against  
 its will.

Thanks for reading my poem. I hope to read some of yours in a future issue of *Shipmate*."

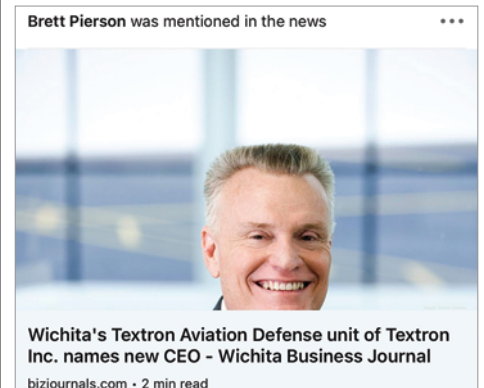
And now, on to our traditional classmate contributions.

**Dan Snyder** and **Rob Pinataro** serendipitously ran into each other at the HLTH 2022 Conference in Las Vegas.



(L to R) Dan Snyder and Rob Pinataro at HLTH 2022

Congratulations to **Brett Pierson**, who was recently appointed President & CEO of Textron's Aviation Defense Division!



Brett Pierson named President and CEO of Textron Aviation Defense

**Doug Wojcik**, assistant men's basketball coach at Michigan State, shared the following:

✉ "I have never posted anything for *Shipmate*. This is from the aircraft carrier college basketball game on Veterans Day 2022 with Michigan State versus Gonzaga. My wife **Lael '90** and I with fellow USNA alumna **Amy Bauernschmidt '94**, the CO of the carrier."



(L to R) CAPT Amy Bauernschmidt '94, CO USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) and Doug Wojcik



(L to R) Doug Wojcik's wife, Lael '90 and CAPT Bauernschmidt '94

Thanks to all our contributors for this issue. Please send your news and writings to [rpinataro87@gmail.com](mailto:rpinataro87@gmail.com) with "SHIPMATE" in the subject line.

# '88

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**Donor Participation: 4.62%**

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Website: [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com) "find my class"

'88 "Without Fear", USS LABOON (DDG-58)  
r/ Sara

**Rob Sparrock** and **Tom Kiss** met at MSC HQ in Norfolk:

**Tom Kiss** serves as the Director of Ship Management at the Military Sealift Command. In this capacity he is responsible for overall strategic program planning, life cycle planning, force structure analysis, acquisition, POM/budget development, and resource allocations for the operation of more than 130 ships in the MSC fleet. **Rob Sparrock** is Program Manager for Research Facilities at the Office of Naval Research and manages the Navy six Oceanographic Research Vessels, DSV Alvin and Navy Postgraduate School Twin Otter for Meteorological research.



Rob Sparrock and Tom Kiss at MSC HQ in Norfolk

USNA Alumni Association and Foundation is migrating to the new myUSNA platform over the next year with the goal of providing better, more coordinated, and timely communications on the right platforms. This means our future connection to all things USNA - including our upcoming class events, reunion news, special interest groups, live events, tailgaters, alumni directory, local chapters, sporting events, world-wide alumni events, and more - are now on or will be on this platform. It's easy. Just head over to [myusna.com](http://myusna.com) and register with your email. If your email matches the one used on [usna.com](http://usna.com), you're in automatically. If it's an updated email, a staff member will verify your identity as a member of the class, and then you'll be in! Please let us know if you have any questions.

With the new myusna platform, we now have a '88 class website, under construction

but live. If you have a small business, we can highlight your logo and link it back to your website. Send your 300 by 300 logo (not to exceed 50 MB) and the url to **Laura Lee** at [lauraleeusna88@gmail.com](mailto:lauraleeusna88@gmail.com), via DM on our private '88 Facebook group, or connect directly using the new myusna.com platform.

'88 is planning the 35th reunion in 2023. Details to follow!

# '89

**Life Membership: 100%**  
**Donor Participation: 6.37%**

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Happy New Year!

I hope you all had an awesome holiday season spent with family and friends! By the time you read this, my wife, Joanne, and I will have completed our second Dopey Challenge down in Disney World, barring any unforeseen circumstances. So we spend much of the holiday season getting ready for the "Dopey".

Let's get 2023 rolling with some words from our Class President, **Denise (Shorey) Willert**:

✉ Hello all, and welcome to the new year! 2023 brings three newly voted members to our class board for six-year terms, to include **Ingar Grev**, **Heidi Fleming** (second term), and **Mike McGettigan**. With the deepest thanks, our board bids farewell to **Clint Carroll** and

**Edwin Henderson**, who both served for the past three years as board members-at-large. Thank you, gentlemen, for your outstanding service to the great class of 1989, and welcome to our newest members!

Exciting news — our own **Carol June (Womack) Holland** had a prestigious athletic award named after her this past fall and has been inducted as a Trustee of the Athletic & Scholarship Program (A&SP). The award is as follows:

"The Carol Womack Award will honor Carol Womack '89. Carol was an outstanding student-athlete, and the Naval Academy's first female Track NCAA National Champion. Her 800m time at the '87 indoor NCAA's set a national record. In 1989, she broke through another glass ceiling by becoming the Naval Academy's first black recipient of the Vice Admiral Lawrence Sword Award (awarded to the most outstanding female athlete in the Brigade). Carol was inducted into the Academy's prestigious Navy Hall of Fame.

The Carol Womack Award will be presented to a female varsity or club athlete (not necessarily of the graduating class) who has shown the grit and determination throughout the team season to earn the title of Most Improved."

What about our phenomenal Carol Womack??

In another note of congratulations, Fox Business on-line recently published an article naming our own **Scott Wine** as one of ten military veteran Fortune 500 CEOs. Keep up the great work and fantastic career, Scott, we are all very proud of you.

Thank you to all individuals who assisted with the Honor our Fallen plankowner fundraiser for the new Alumni Center this past fall. Unfortunately, as I write this note in November, it's uncertain as to whether or not we met our monetary goal, but every donation was appreciated. A special thanks goes out to **Brian Caldwell**, who helped significantly to lead the outreach effort to company representatives.

You'll read in this column about the ladies' "Fabulous 55" gathering in Newport, Rhode Island in October. And it was indeed fabulous! A special thanks to **Kristin (Reynolds) Goodrich**,



'89: Back row: Mike Baird, Jim Ronka; Middle row: Brian Caldwell, Rob Lewis, Mike Leupold, Rob Lessard, Donnie Van Gilder, Ed Maraist, Chris Cronk; Front row: Rich Brennan, Frank Lugo, Kristin (Reynolds) Goodrich, Beth (Wainscott) Cronk